

# OTHER

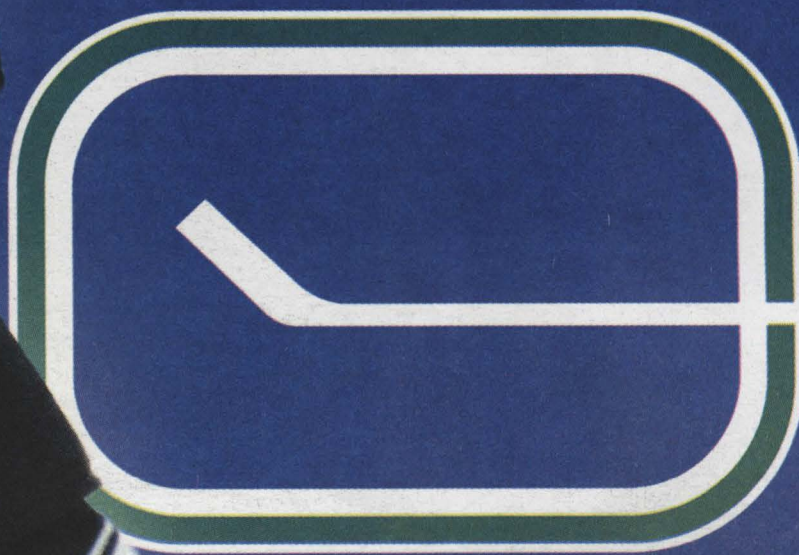
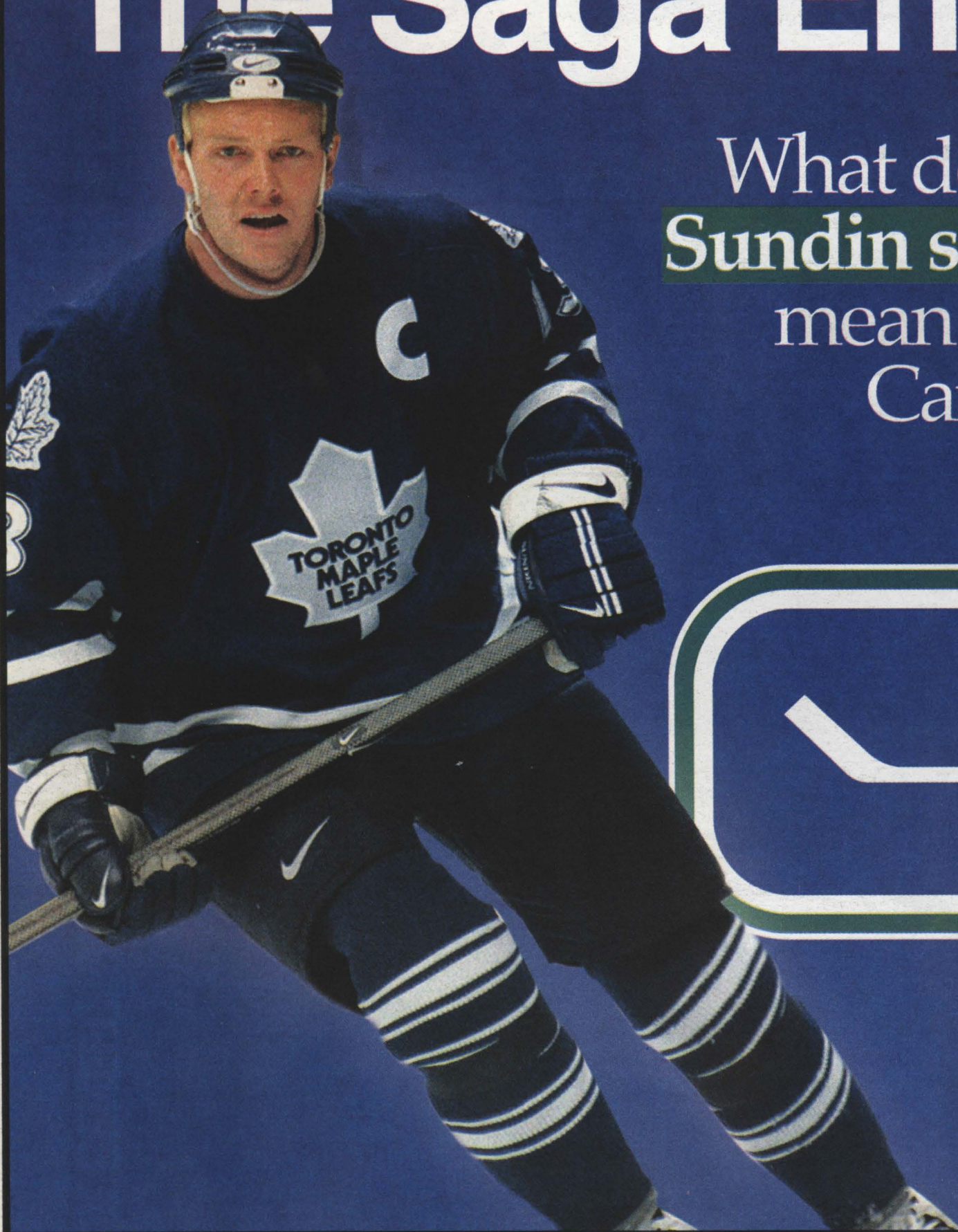
PRESS

theotherpress.ca

the Douglas college student newspaper since 1976  
Issue 14, Vol 35, January 5/09

# The Saga Ends!

What does the  
**Sundin signing**  
mean for the  
Canucks?  
page 19





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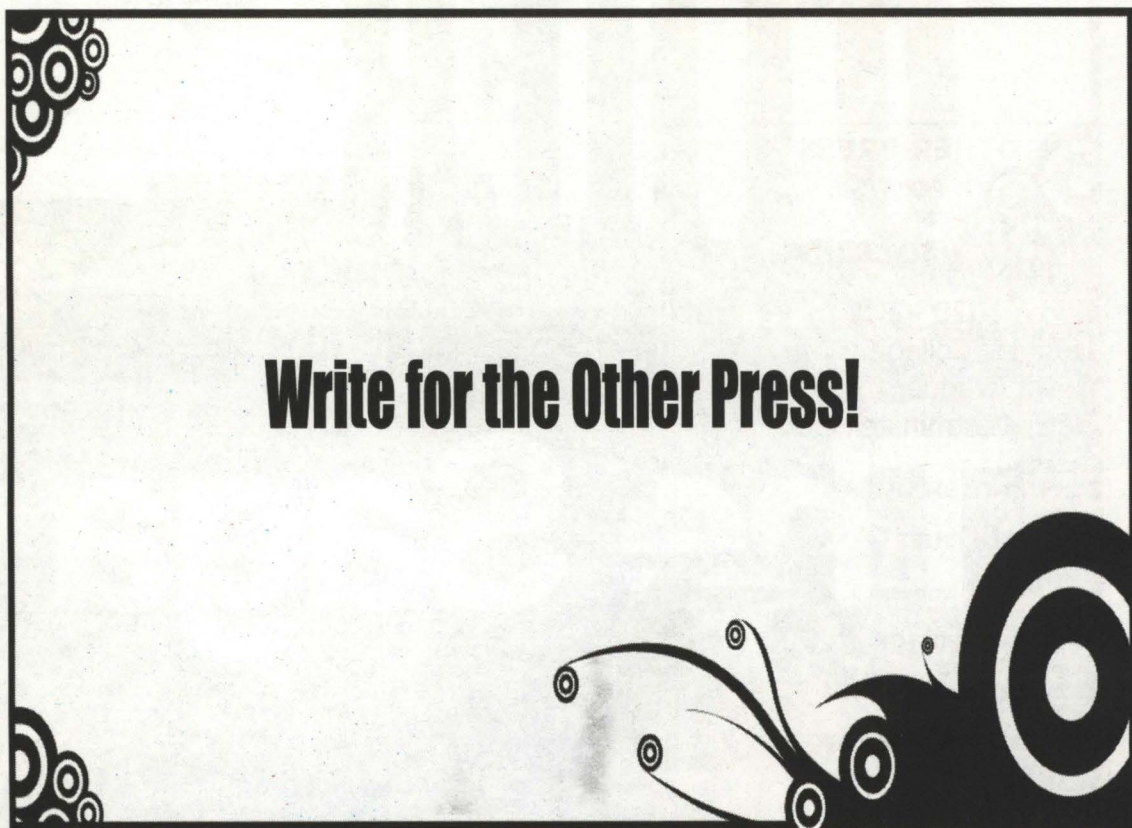
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# The Other Press

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## THE OTHER PRESS

Student Newspaper of  
Douglas College

PUBLISHED SINCE 1976

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## This Week's Headlines

January 5, 2009

### NEWS



**Bus accident causes severe damage to Salvation Army store.**

-Matthew Steinbach, Pg.5

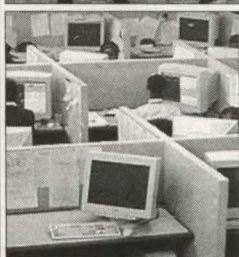
### OPINIONS



**How to tell if SAD affects you.**

-Priscilla Bartleman, Pg.9

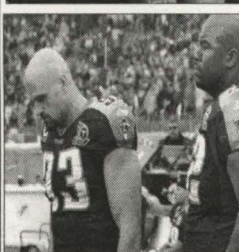
### FEATURE



**Is a Bachelor's degree really worth anything to employers?**

-Lindsay Jolivet, Pg.10

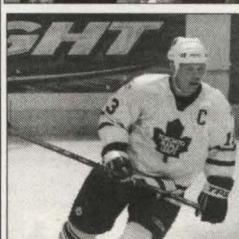
### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



**A journalist revisits his time in a small town in his new book.**

-Sam VanSchie, Pg.12

### SPORTS



**The Sundin Saga comes to an end.**

-Garth McLennan, Pg.19

## WRITE FOR US !

**Anyone can get published in the Other Press!** Just email your story to the appropriate section editor from the list on the right.

Please send your file as an MS Word doc file, and include your full name, email address, and word count.

The weekly deadline for submissions is Wednesday night for publication the following Monday. Letters to the Editor and "time-sensitive" articles (weekend news, sports, and cultural reviews) will be accepted until Saturday at noon and can be submitted to the editor at editor@theotherpress.ca

Submissions will be edited for clarity and style.

The Other Press will pay \$50 to any student who writes an article of at least 1,000 words for the "features" section. Submit story ideas to the Editor in Chief. Offer good once per semester per student.

The Other Press holds weekly staff meetings at 6 PM on Mondays in room 1020 of the New Westminster campus. All interested students are welcome.

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## WHO WE ARE

The Other Press has been Douglas College's student newspaper since 1976. Since 1978 we have been an autonomous publication, independent of the student union. Today we are registered society under the Society Act of British Columbia, governed by an eight-person board of directors appointed by and from our staff. Our head office is located in the New Westminster campus.

The Other Press is published weekly during the fall and winter semesters, and monthly during the summer. We receive our funding from a student levy collected through tuition fees every semester

at registration, and from local and national advertising revenue. The Other Press is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), a syndicate of student newspapers that includes papers from all across Canada.

The Other Press reserves the right to choose what we will publish, and we will not publish material that is hateful, obscene, or condones or promotes illegal activities. Submissions may be edited for clarity and brevity if necessary. All images used are copyright to their respective owners.



# LETTITOR

*"You said you didn't give a fuck about hockey  
And I never heard someone say that before"  
—The Tragically Hip, "Fireworks"*

## Game over, Stephen

December 31<sup>st</sup> ended 2008 with a bang as usual, but for Canadian sports fans, there was a special treat this year; Canada beat the Americans in the World Juniors of hockey.

Hell of a game, too. We were down by three goals, then came back and won seven-to-four. Not bad, I'd say.

I guess the TSN camera crew got bored watching the absolute rout taking place on the ice, because they began to scan the audience, filming the fans who were losing their minds over this win. But there was one fan who wasn't losing his mind and getting excited. In fact, this particular fan looked like he was about as animated as a walking corpse.

Turns out that walking corpse was Stephen Harper, who had come to watch the game with his family. At first I felt angry at the camera crew for blemishing an otherwise perfect game by showing us the country's favourite snake in the grass, but then I started feeling something I'd never felt before. They say on that day, my heart grew two sizes bigger.

*I actually began feel bad for Stephen Harper.* Never thought I'd ever say that, but it happened. I felt bad for him because it must have been so strange for him to cheer *against* the Americans for once. It must've been like going through the looking glass for the poor guy. He's probably still not sure how he pulled it off himself.

After all, here's a guy who's supported the Americans on everything: their anti-environmentalism, the War in Iraq, hell, I bet Stephen would let them implement Manifest Destiny if they asked nice enough. Cheering for Canada for once must have been the bravest thing Stephen Harper's ever done. Well, not the bravest; dealing with that whole Coalition thing must have taken the cake. When I think about the courage, the guts, the sheer ballsiness it takes to tell Canadians that the opposition parties are subverting democracy by forming a coalition, and then to subvert democracy yourself by suspending Parliament and continuing to rule as if you had a real mandate... well, that's true heroism.

Your friend in high fidelity,  
**Liam Britten**  
Editor-in-Chief  
The Other Press

P.S. Oh, one more thing: can all you right-wingers stop calling what the Coalition is doing a "coup?" A coup is something that happens that results in violence and bloodshed, not a slight irregularity in Parliament. The fact that you people refer to this minor situation as a "coup" shows just how divorced from reality you are, and how little perspective you possess.

Okay, I'll make the right wing a deal; you guys can act without perspective and call this a "coup," but if that's the way it's going to be, us on the left can call Stephen Harper a "fascist" and a "Nazi" all we want. Yeah, it would be slanderous, untrue and irresponsible, but it's no different than what you immature hypocrites are doing. Just desserts, I'd say.



## The editorial staff has an obligation to raise the bar

I am astonished that this article ["Feminism: Providing a foundation for easier sex," Issue #13 Vol. 35, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008] was published. It is sexist and badly written. The author claims to understand and represent feminism (an entire academic and political movement) but clearly fails to do so. The most authentic part of the article is a statement of frustration with social expectations that constrain members of both sexes but he doesn't show any sign of understanding this. Publishing this article during the week of the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre shows either complete ignorance or a deliberate poke in the eye of those who champion higher ideals such as equal rights for members of oppressed groups.

In 1989, fourteen young women were shot and killed at Montreal's L'École Polytechnique by a single gunman in an effort to eradicate feminism. The women were engineering students and they represented a threat to patriarchal authority. This was an isolated incident but it is part of a larger cultural context in which violence against women is common. It is one incident in a series of pressures which keep women marginal. There may be no one individual oppressor, but women are vulnerable economically, sexually and socially in a world that invests a lot in what women should or should not be.

In the early part of the last century, people were sometimes killed because they were black. They may have been killed for being "uppity" and black. To exceed one's social position has long been punishable by death. For a long time these racial murders were seen as private, as one man maintaining order in his own domain. It has taken a concerted shift of consciousness to see and respond to these attacks as part of a systemic oppression.

Why does this matter? If Brendan had been talking about black people and had suggested they be "*allowed* to compete vigorously in the market society," [emphasis added] he would have been scorned. Who is he to allow anything? And what does he think women have been doing anyway? To equate "the laws of insanity" (by the way, where do they keep these laws?) with "the imagination of feminism" doesn't make any sense. If having a penis was all it took to protect a person from violence and discrimination, feminists might want just that, but what we really want is freedom from oppression for all people!

The editorial staff at *The Other Press* has an obligation to raise the bar. I believe that we all need to do our best to make the world a better place. We all need to work hard to root out unconscious behaviour and think hard about what we're creating. A college newspaper represents the best and the brightest. It sets the tone for a generation and the new generation will be responsible for a lot. It is essential that the people at *The Other Press* take responsibility for the content of the newspaper. We can do better than this and we should!

—Emily McIvor



## Douglas College offers co-op opportunities

By Ashley Whillans, Associate News Editor



If your list of New Year's resolutions includes having more money and a better job, you might not have to look any further than Douglas College's Co-op Program.

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> the Department of Cooperative Education is holding information sessions at the New Westminster Campus for its Summer Co-op Program.

The Summer Co-op Program links students with local businesses and upon enrolment eligible students will participate in a four-month job placement, while receiving nine credits and an hourly wage.

What are the benefits of co-op? Well, according to Lianne Johnston, Douglas College's placement coordinator, the program is a "win-win situation because students are still considered full time, but

experience in their chosen field," said Johnston.

With wages averaging between 15 and 20 dollars an hour and placements within companies such as BC Hydro, ICBC, Century 21 and VANOC, the program "provides a great opportunity for students to gain college credit while working in their chosen field."

Another benefit of Co-operative education is the opportunity for students to land an extended or permanent position, as was the case with one finance student.

"A [finance] student I was working with applied at BC Hydro, and got the job placement," said Johnston. "He is now making \$18 an hour. With no experience other than school, he now has a great job that could extend into a summer position."

Johnston warns that co-op is competitive,

have the benefit of putting classroom theory into action."

"Students are also able to focus in their areas of discipline. An accounting, computer science, or marketing student, for example, will be paired up with a particular business that will give them practical

especially for the summer semester, and even after registering for the program, students still have to apply for the job and complete subsequent interviews, and may or may not receive employment.

However, students do not pay program fees until they are placed in position. Also, if a student registers for Summer Co-op and doesn't receive a posting, they can register for classes without losing enrolment.

"The program oversees students all the way through the application process, helping with mock interviews and tightening up resumes for specific applications, and is really fantastic opportunity—especially during the summer," says Johnston.

Students must meet the eligibility requirements posted on the Douglas College website as well as attend two workshops on resume building and interview skills.

More information can be obtained online through [douglas.bc.ca](http://douglas.bc.ca)

### The next information sessions for co-op are:

Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> from 4:30–6 p.m. in room 4245

Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup> from 4–5 p.m. in room 4247

Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> from 4:30–6 p.m. in room 4245

## Ignite your potential

By Matthew Steinbach, News Editor

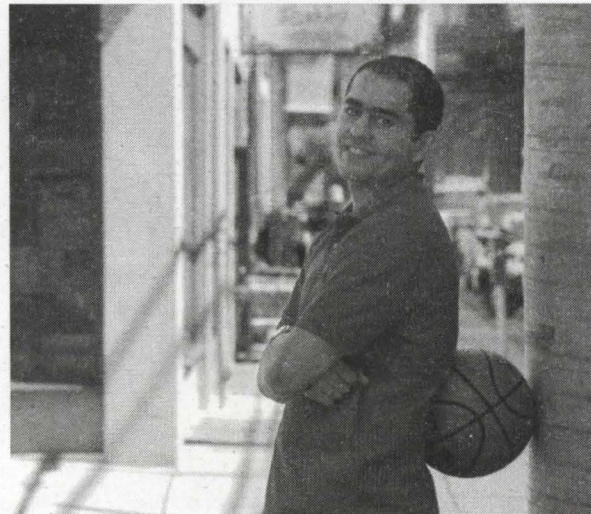
Douglas College will be releasing a new advertising campaign this January to replace their "You Can Go Anywhere From Here" campaign.

Starting this month the college wants to display that they are a starting point for new and current students, but that the college can also be a place where you can finish up a degree as well as one from which you can take other career paths. Thus, the college's marketing department has opted to change their tagline to "Ignite Your Potential."

At the Douglas College Board meeting that unveiled the new campaign on December 18<sup>th</sup>, Brad Barber and Sean Kelly said that their inspiration came from "putting up other schools' materials on a wall and noticing their similarities."

This is meant to set them apart with something simple, new, sleek and easy to understand. This overhaul on their marketing campaign will take effect immediately for the school's billboard and transit advertising and will lead into a new simpler and easier to use Douglas College website. Other changes will also follow in time; however, those changes were not discussed at the presentation on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

"You Can Go Anywhere From Here" began nine years ago, so it was also time to consider a change in marketing tactics given the changed state of education in which there is currently lower enrolment than there was at the time the campaign was initially released. There is also less government funding for schools to utilize. Thus, the schools must meet their enrolment targets to remain competitive in their subject areas.



## Salvation Army stores takes heavy damage

By Matthew Steinbach, News Editor

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, a bus in a freak accident smashed into the Salvation Army store in New Westminster.

A Translink bus was parked up on Eight Street before it began to roll down the hill, breaking through a window and leaving the store and the bus damaged in the process. According to CBC.ca, the costs of repair were estimated at \$100,000.

The Salvation Army is funded primarily by charitable donations, so it is likely going to be a tough

task for them to re-coup their losses as many potential donors are already "maxed out" by the end of the Christmas season. Thus, they will have to use the money they have earmarked for other projects to fix up their brand new store instead.

This accident occurred shortly after the Salvation Army had to move from their previous location half a block up to make way for building construction in the area. The building they moved into was restored to its original 1912 look as a streetcar train station, an expensive project for the Salvation Army.



The bus that damaged the Salvation Army store



## Supporters of Palestine march on consulate

By Ashley Whillans, Associate News Editor



The U.S. consulate in Vancouver on December 29<sup>th</sup>



On December 29<sup>th</sup>, about 150 members of several Palestinian solidarity groups such as Canadians Against War and UBC's Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights joined together to march outside the U.S. consulate in Vancouver.

The chanting protestors, armed with flags, signs and microphones, came together to express their outrage at the hundreds of Palestinians killed and injured during the last Israeli assault on the Gaza strip, which, according to a notice

being distributed over email, caused the highest death toll in Gaza since 1967.

According to a press release issued by the groups, over the past two years the Gaza Strip has been undergoing daily violence and a humanitarian crisis triggered by reduced access to energy, food, and medicines.

Hanna Kawas of the Canada Palestine Association told the protestors attending the rally that the U.S. had blocked a United Nations resolution to stop the bombing,

which has claimed more than 300 lives in Gaza.

Over the next few days, additional demonstrations will take place in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa and Kawas announced today that another rally is scheduled for January 3<sup>rd</sup> outside of the Vancouver Art Gallery at 1 p.m.

In addition to protests, the solidarity groups are endorsing a talk by political scientist Dr. Norman Finkelstein titled, "What We Can Learn From Gandhi: Resolving the Israel-Palestine Conflict," happening at UBC on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

For more information or to buy tickets visit [www.normanfinkelstein.com](http://www.normanfinkelstein.com).

You can also check out the groups' Facebook page, Vancouver Rally for Gaza, or email [vancouver.gazaprotest@gmail.com](mailto:vancouver.gazaprotest@gmail.com).

## NEWS SHORTS

By Matthew Steinbach and Ashley Whillans

### Snow, snow, go away

Many students were left stranded this holiday season, whether they were attempting to go to work, or come home for the holidays. Airports and transit suffered everything from lengthy delays to complete shutdowns, affecting all sorts of travel plans.

The weather also threatens to halt the first days of classes for many, as there may be more snow to come in the days leading up to January 5<sup>th</sup>. Douglas College currently has weather updates on their website for more information on campus closures. Students should also check myDouglas to see if their classes are cancelled.

### Chip your tree for charity

On Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, the Firefighters Charitable Society of New Westminster is holding a tree chipping event in the parking lot of the Canada Games Pool at 65 East Sixth Avenue in New Westminster.

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the firefighters are chipping trees by donation as well as hosting a fun-filled family event complete with free hot chocolate, Timbits and music courtesy of the New Westminster Secondary School band.

All donations received will go to the Firefighters Charitable Society, which helps to fund important initiatives such as the pediatrics unit at the Royal Columbian Hospital, the Union Gospel Mission and the Royal City Education Foundation.

### "Career Start" comes to Douglas

Douglas College's Dean Ted James and co-op education team and vice-president of external relations Hazel Postma have been busy over the holiday season preparing a new co-op stream: Career Start.

With over 60% of Douglas College Students taking only two courses per semester, the Career Start Program aims to pair part-time students with businesses in the community (within their field of study). These businesses will help contribute to tuition fees and offer part-time employment leading up to full-time positions for students upon graduation in either management or supervisory roles.

"The business is able to train students early, give them experience, help their tuition and in turn, the student is more knowledgeable, understands the business better and can roll into a decent position," says Co-op Coordinator Lianne Johnston.

So far, the Dean and Co-op Team have signed contracts with two major banks, and have deals to begin this program primarily in banking and finance.



# I'm not in love with the Modern World

By Nikalas Kryzanowski, Opinions Editor



I was watching *Fiddler on the Roof* the other day; the Norman Jewison musical about a Jewish *shtetl* tucked away deep in czarist Russia, inhabited by fun loving, song singing, deeply tradition-bound Jews whose world is turned topsy-turvy by encroaching modernity. Traditions are broken and compromised. The final result? Displacement. The Jews are forced out of their ancestral homes by a czarist edict, families broken up and dispersed across the world to from Siberia to New York, Krakow to Chicago. Yes, I

told you how it ends but any history book would've done the same. It got me thinking about community and how our lifestyle stacks up against those of the village prior to the edict and whether we're any better off.

I realize that we live in a region of two million people clustered together versus a village of maybe a hundred but there a few things that strike me as interesting living in a small village. The first is the sense of identity one must get from being a part of something.

The whole village is a team with everyone playing a role. Here in the Lower Mainland most people don't know their immediate neighbours. Some don't even speak the same language as them! While it sounds great on paper—cultures living in harmony together—not being able to speak on any meaningful level because of both a linguistic and cultural gap makes things difficult.

In a small village without much in the way of “social service,” there is a far greater sense of individual

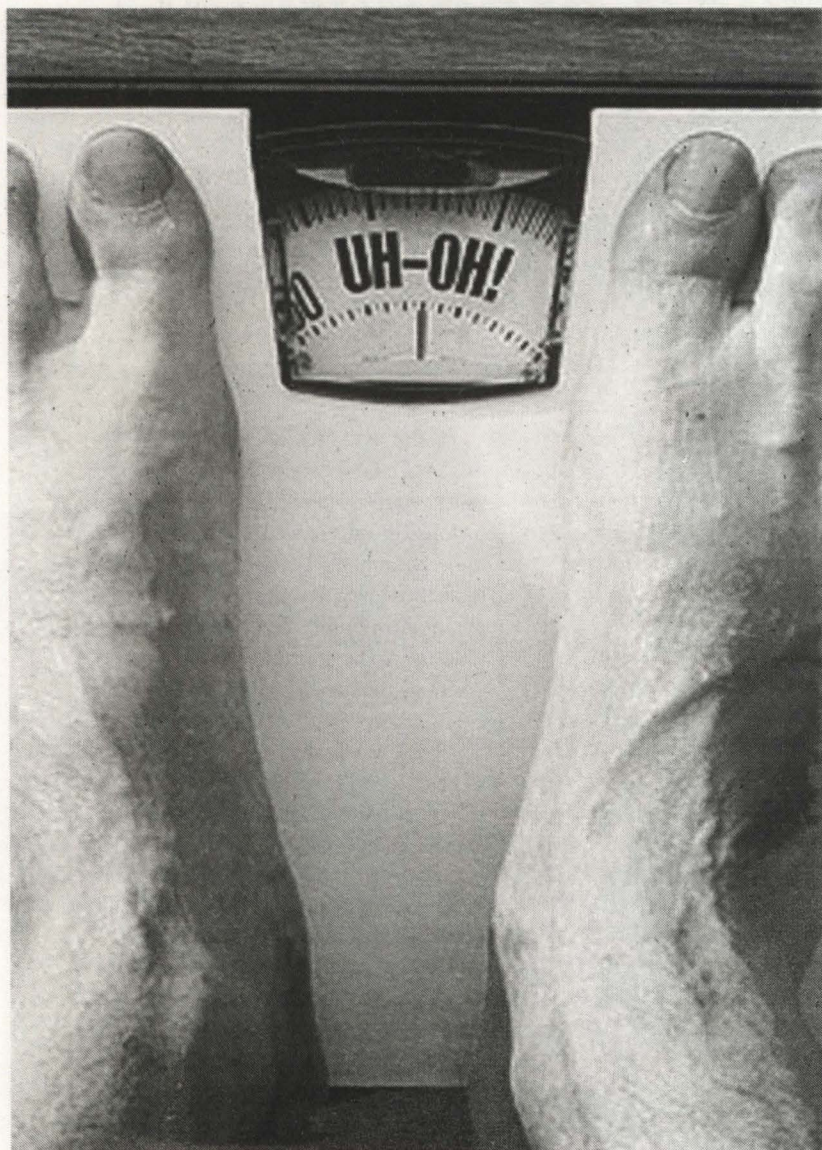
responsibility and a far greater sense of individual worth. When the bad weather struck our region, only major thoroughfares benefited from the snow removal budget; the rest of the residential roads were left on their own. Did anyone or any group of neighbours get outside and shovel these roads together as a community? Nope, they simply spun their tires until they mustered up enough traction to get out. Two weeks later they still sit snowed!

I have a hard time understanding why “bigger and faster” is the mantra of large modern societies. There is so much beauty in simplicity and the understated. The industrial revolution has turned people into extensions of machines; mere button pushers instead of crafters. Retail has done everything possible to sap the humanity from marketplace transactions by spoiling “consumers” rotten at the expense of “customer service representatives.” The gadget boom of the last decade as well has spurred a lot of tech-headaches, filled homes with unused cables and crappy bits of broken plastic, while alienating us from the people immediately around us, thereby eroding our sense of *real* community, all the while telling us how they've drastically improved the community.

The modern world has a lot to answer for. Just what is the end goal of our society? Just to keep getting bigger until we eventually burst? Or perhaps until each of us has our own “happiness box” that we can climb into that would hook us up 24/7 relegating us to becoming mere observers of our own lives. If so, I'm hitching a ride to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

# New Year, new goals, new ways to keep 'em

By Priscilla Bartleman



A New Year's Resolution is a commitment someone makes to themselves about change. It can be either habit or lifestyle and it usually takes effect January 1<sup>st</sup> and will be around until it is fulfilled or well abandoned.

As I write this, it is almost New Years Eve and I am thinking about things I tried to change last year. I did not really stick to it and I've considered making some new resolutions. Is it a waste of my time, though? How am I going to make a resolution and stick to it? So I did some thinking and some searching and found a few helpful tips.

For starters, go through your thoughts and write everything down that you would like to do in the New Year. It does not always have to be a negative in your life to change. There can also be good things like plan a trip or spend more time with family. I think mixing in some good with the not so good will make the year more pleasant. Now that you have written it down you need to limit the number you are going to actually do. Some big and some small would be good. It would be nice to say you did one or two of the tasks before year's end, and the taste of victory will help with motivation for the larger tasks.

When writing it down and making it a plan you need to be specific. Unfortunately for me, last year I thought too big and wasn't specific—I said “I am going to become a vegan.” Well, that was very difficult as there is more to a vegan lifestyle than I could maintain. I felt I was not going to be able to commit fully to clothing, products I buy and food I eat so I dropped the resolution and went back to being a vegetarian. So, make it something more specific and realistic of course.

After you have written it down, post it somewhere you can see it.

Set incremental goals! Why didn't I think of that? It makes sense to me. Setting mini goals that lead up to the larger goal will make the task not so large and when you reward yourself for reaching an incremental goal it is going to feel great. Work on your goal everyday. When you do something everyday it becomes easier to do it than if you were to do it a few times a week.

I read that it is positive to substitute a good habit for a bad one but I think you would have to be careful with what you are substituting. There can be too much of a good thing so just be careful what you are substituting for and how much of it.

Just remember to stay positive! If you don't reach a mini goal in the time you gave yourself just adjust for the new time. I think life is about doing the best you can, when you can and if you get half way this year then it is half way closer than you were before. Don't be too hard on yourself and don't forget to reward yourself!

## Top 10 Resolutions of 2009:

1. Get out of debt
2. Lose weight/ get in shape
3. Quit smoking
4. More time with family/ friends
5. Raise/ promotion at work
6. Find a new job
7. Take a vacation
8. Help others
9. Learn something new
10. Go back to school



# Our backs turn for one moment and Parliament goes to Hell!

By Nikalas Kryzanowski, Opinions Editor

What bad timing for *The Other Press* to go on break. Normally skinny-as-a-twig federal politics has been full of meat and potatoes as of late. Here's a quick recap of the events that transpired in late November:

1. The Conservatives offer an economic update, which included a motion to end government funds for political parties (a.k.a. campaign welfare). This would hurt every party but the Conservatives and would save the government \$1.95 per vote cast in the last election.
2. The opposition parties, fearing for their finances, threaten to topple the government, citing a lack of confidence in the House of Commons. This would normally result in another election but this time the opposition does a head count in parliament and decides, "Hey, we've got more guys! We could govern!" And so the three left-of-centre parties sign an agreement to install a new Prime Minister, the most unpopular Liberal leader ever.
3. Though this is totally legit from a legal point of view, Conservative-minded people, painting it as an affront, hold a rally across the country for "democracy."
4. Harper, hoping that time will reveal cracks in this bizarre coalition, wonders whether he really has to deal with it now and asks the Governor General if she will give everyone a six-week vacation. She agrees and suspends or "prorogues" Parliament until January 27<sup>th</sup>.
5. In the meantime, the Liberals hurriedly install Michael Ignatieff as leader.

In late January, the Conservatives will table a new budget, and the coalition will judge whether it jives. If not, repeat steps 2, 3 and 5.

Or, the whole sordid story could be put to Canadians' judgment.

Frankly, I am in favour of the latter option. I understand that Canadians choose Parliament, not government specifically, leaving the parliament to arrange the government; but is this ideal? Perhaps we should elect the government directly. Doing so would allow us to avoid the farcical situation we have now and more importantly, it would prevent the party

bent on tearing Canada apart from having a hand in directly dictating Canadian policy.

In my view, irreconcilable differences in Parliament should always be put to Canadians, and this coalition loophole should be closed and more direct democracy should replace it. Being elected to Parliament means that you have been hired by Canadians to mind the country. If you can't respect the role that you've been hired for, then it amounts to insubordination to your employer and is grounds for termination.

Bring on another election if necessary.



# Change is good! Do something productive!

By Nikalas Kryzanowski, Opinions Editor

Here we are, back from a well earned break over the holidays, stuffed with turkey leftovers, gift receipts in hand and grandma's sweater on your back. You probably purged your old binders of messy notes scrawled in that chicken scratch you call handwriting.

You now have a whole new slate of classes to go to with new profs in new rooms, where, no matter how bad you did in the classes of your previous semester, you can come in on day one with equal grades as all your classmates—every one of you in the same boat and the same level of know-nothingness. On the first day, the prof will usually punch you down with kid gloves on—did you know that you can actually get in trouble for plagiarism and that there are computers in the library?

Don't you just love the unsullied freshness of a new semester?

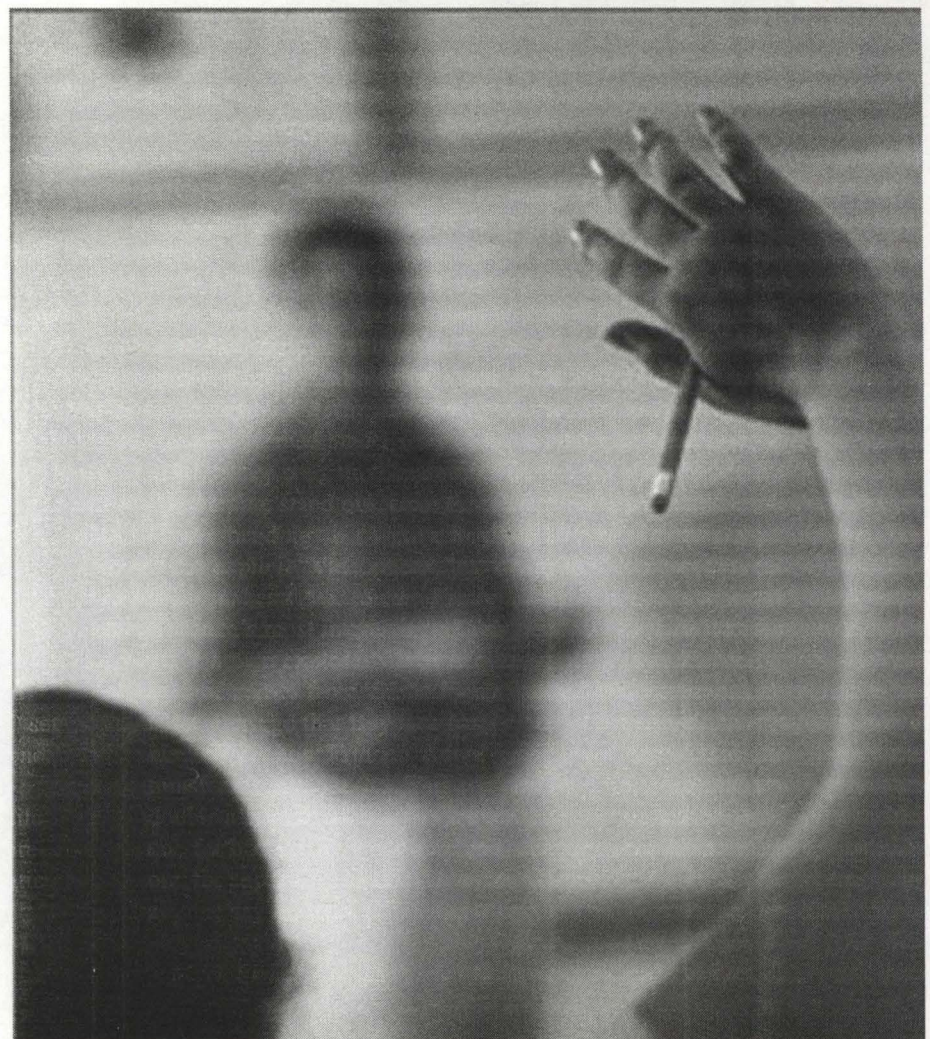
Challenge myself, bah! I'll save that for the final exam where I teach myself the entire course from my uncracked textbook (left pristine throughout the year so it would fetch a higher price at the end of the semester... wait, what do you mean they changed the edition?!).

The dawn of a new semester is full of that one intangible thing that means you're perfect even if only for a week—potential! You're full of it right now! No one can take that away from you all in one go—it can only gradually dissipate over the course of three months as the novelty wears off your classes and assignments pile up.

So savour this week, it's the easiest one you'll have until April. Take advantage of it and your potential; learn to screen print or sign up for that ethnic cooking course at the community centre you were meaning to do. Or heck, why not get involved here at Douglas and contribute to your campus paper with an opinion or review or even a hot local news scoop! We look handsome on a résumé.

Or here's an idea: get a group together and attend a few Douglas Students' Union meetings this winter—you know, those dozens of dollars extra that came out of your wallet at the beginning of the semester on top of tuition? The ones you probably would have just wasted on food and rent? Well, the DSU meets every so often to make decisions about how to spend it, you know. They would love a big turnout at their meetings! It lets them know you care. Find out when and where at your DSU office.

Make sure you make the most of your time here. If not, you'll regret it. Oops, that's not a threat, but seriously, you'll one day look back on these days and wish you had.





## Are you SAD?

By Priscilla Bartleman



*Many are unaware that SAD could affect them*

Weather like we have been having is bound to make a number of us non-snow bunnies sad, but this is not the sad I am talking about; I'm talking about Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

SAD is when someone is affected by not only "winter blues," but also late spring or early summer depression. It has been recognized as a disorder since the 1980s but many people don't know it exists and many don't know they have it or that they can get help.

So, how does weather affect someone's mood? Well, there is no confirmed cause but it is known that we have an internal clock—a biological clock that says be awake during the daylight and asleep at night. Our human cycle has been programmed to follow this routine and when our bodies cannot adjust to the seasonal change of light we can become SAD.

A similar thing happens to people who work graveyard shifts from 11 p.m. to about 7 a.m. They are asleep when the body wants to be awake and awake when the body wants to be asleep. My friend who worked long-term graveyard shifts was told by her doctor that she has a weaker immune system and feels run down and tired because of this biological clock working against her lifestyle. It is different than seasonal affective disorder but similar because it has to do with the joyous

light of day. I find it fascinating how the human body works.

Symptoms of SAD would be present two consecutive winters, with no other explanation. Someone experiencing SAD could get a boost of energy or the symptoms slowly dissipate. SAD tends to be in women more than men and in people over the age of 20. Some children may get it, and the risk decreases with age.

We all get a little blue every now and again—it is a part of life—but if you or someone you know finds daily function to be affected then make it a priority to seek medical advice from a professional. Asking for help when you are depressed can seem like a search for light in the dark, but you don't have to do it alone. It takes a strong person to ask for help and you are worth it!

If you would like to know more about SAD, symptoms or treatment I suggest you consult your family physician.



## Life after university: how to get a job in the real world

By Lindsay Jolivet, The Silhouette (McMaster)



HAMILTON (CUP) – Dan Leibner, a 2007 McMaster University graduate with an honours in political science and communication studies, does not have encouraging stories about his transition from university to the workplace.

“Personally, I’ve had trouble getting the job that I want and I’m not sure exactly what to do about it,” he said.

For students in an ever-changing society, graduation presents a new lifestyle, new challenges, and new responsibilities as they leave the safety-net school and enter the big, bad world.

Jacqueline Hampshire, events and marketing co-ordinator for Career Services at McMaster in Hamilton, Ont., feels that in some ways, the student lifestyle cuts students off from the society they will have to engage with after graduation.

“[Students] tend to live in a little bit of a campus bubble,” said Hampshire.

Students study, attend lectures, hang out, and sometimes work and live



on campus; Hampshire notes this ties many of their experiences directly to the university.

Patrick Burek, career counselling leader at McMaster’s Career Services, says students have difficulty transferring their lessons from campus to real life.

“I think one of the challenges for many students is that those who are thinking completely that this is the stage in their life where they are going to focus on education, and when they leave here they’re going to focus exclusively on work ... aren’t engaging as much in the world outside of McMaster,” said Burek.

“As a result, they might not be learning in parallel how to apply the skills they are developing here, or even how to identify the skills that they’re developing here... as to what is valuable to employers.”

However, Burek says a campus-centered lifestyle has benefits.

“Having your life centered around a university campus, where in some ways they are a little bit buffered from some of the immediate pressures and demands of [society]... so that they have the opportunity to delve into studies in a deeper, uninterrupted way,” he said.

Burek says the most important trick to connecting student lives with the work force is recognizing the skills university provides.

“The people here that are graduating are very skilled, and employers recognize the skills within them. I think the students might not fully recognize the skills that they’ve gained while they were here because all their peers have the same skills and they’re sort of taking it for granted,” he said.

Furthermore, he says many students misinterpret the assets that employers value. Since students spend their time studying, learning, and understanding the content of courses, Burek says they often feel the mastery of their programs’ content makes them most employable.

“I think, probably, for the majority of employers that we work with, they’re most concerned with the skills that students develop in the process of mastering the content,” he said.

But, Burek says an entirely different set of skills makes post-secondary graduates employable.

“Advanced communication skills both in verbal and writing, critical thinking, and creative problem-solving skills,” he said.

“The ability to think has always been in high market demand, and I can’t foresee that ever going out of style. At the essence of the university experience, it teaches people how to think.”

Hampshire adds a number of skills to this list, adapted from the Conference Board of Canada’s employability skills checklist.

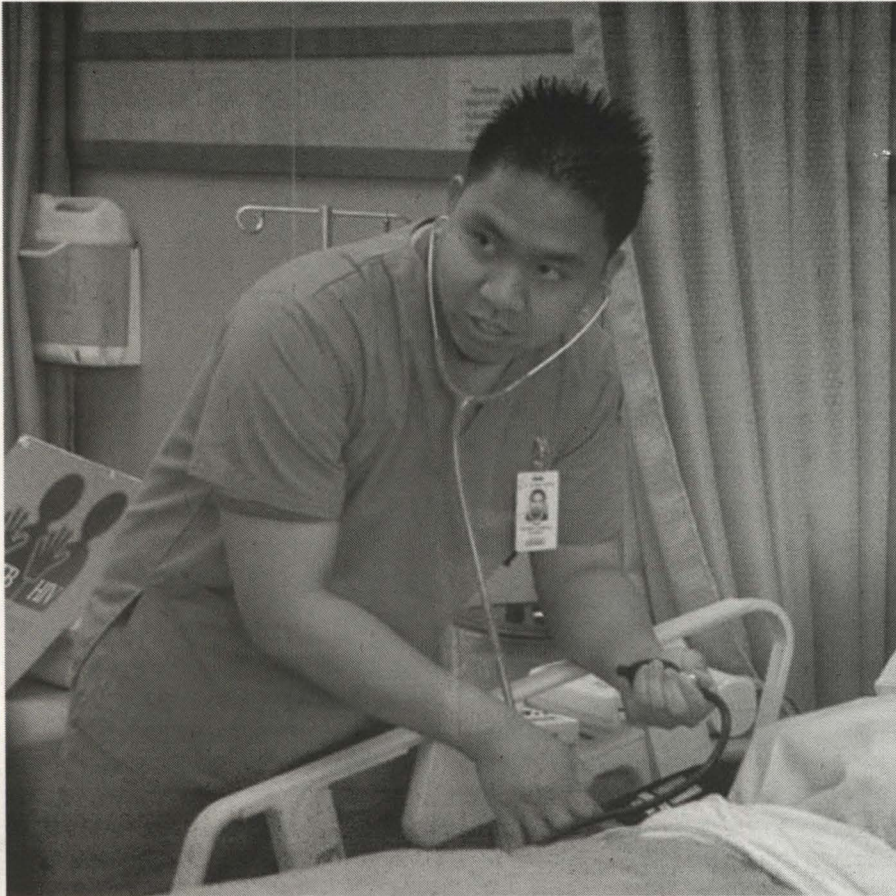
“No matter which program you’re from, no matter which faculty you’ve studied in, [it outlines] those skills that the employers seek, that they want the candidate to have when they’re coming into the work force—and it’s simple things like responsibility, adaptability, time management, communication.”

She says students develop some of these skills by being in a post-secondary environment, where immediacy reins daily activities. Assignments, job applications, planning a night out—things tend to be right here, right now. By the fourth year of studies, organizational and time-management skills become imperative to success.

“Those types of skills are sometimes missed by students because they’re things you don’t think about, you just do,” Hampshire said.

*Continued on Pg.11*





Burek also mentions the importance of learning to work collaboratively as well as independently, and respecting diversity.

"Most employers today, particularly at the professional level, don't want to supervise their staff, they want to lead them, and they rely on their staff for creative ideas and new and innovative ways of working."

Some students don't feel their studies alone provide them with enough valuable skills.

"There's a ton of competition out there and today, I don't think a Bachelor of Arts really separates you from anyone else," Leibner said.

Recent concerns about the decreasing value of an undergraduate degree can add stress to the transition from school.

Tanya Mazur, a McMaster career advisor, has some comforting words on the worth of a degree.

"The number of university students has increased over the years and... the novelty is wearing off of it a little bit. But that doesn't mean that it's not useful, and I don't think students should be weary of that fact. I think it's just a matter of adding something to it."

Co-ops, internships, work, volunteering, and post-undergraduate schooling provide opportunities for supplementing undergraduate studies.

Leibner is currently considering post-graduate studies.

Similarly, Meg Banks, who received her honours Bachelor of Arts in English and history in 2007, began to consider supplementing her undergraduate degree shortly after graduating.

"It's surprisingly easy at first; you can get drunk more often, you have more money, you're less stressed out—it's great," she said. "Then you go home for Christmas and your aunt asks you what you've been doing with your year and you go: 'Nothing. Absolutely nothing.' And then you freak out and start applying [to] grad schools."

Career services emphasizes that experience gained beyond the academic curriculum, in the form of volunteering or working, will not only further develop skills, but will establish a sense of confidence.

Mazur notes that students are starting to realize that combining their studies with outside experiences truly gives them the whole package.

Hampshire adds there were over 900 positions posted across campus for work-study opportunities this year.

Although he feels the transition from university to the work force has become more difficult, Burek says there are ways to make your education count for more.

"I don't think the credential alone will carry people, but I think if they do their university education well, they will still be valued by employers."

He maintains that those students who take a pro-active approach to learning and develop interpersonally as well as academically will struggle less after university.

Andrea Unrau, a 2007 honours Bachelor of Science psychology student, received a job at the McMaster psychology department upon graduation.

"For me the transition has been a bit smoother than others, I know," she said. She was, however, concerned about waiting to attend graduate school.

"Sometimes I feel like I'm spinning my wheels by not attending grad school right away, but I try to remind myself that I have a rewarding and enjoyable job in my field – and isn't that the point of getting a degree in the first place?"

Recent trends in the workforce point to the increasing importance of adaptability for future employees. Hampshire says that on average, people go through five to seven career changes throughout their lifetime.

The careers themselves are also changing.

"The job that you feel you might be training for five years from now, might be very, very different once you get there," Burek said.

Adaptability leads to the often-mentioned term "lifelong learning," a concept that Hampshire feels every employer is looking for.

"Your university degree might help kind of get you a look on a résumé, but it's all the experiences that are built around that, that I think is going to get you the actual interview," she said.

However, she also notes that employers are beginning to adapt their methods to facilitate students' transition, with things like mentoring programs.

When considering the benefits of the first post-graduation job, Burek warns against focusing too much on salary.

"The students who are thinking mostly around future learning benefits will probably have higher monetary benefits five years down the road than the ones who are originally thinking in monetary benefits, and who are thinking in the stage model: now education is over, learning is over, work begins," she said.

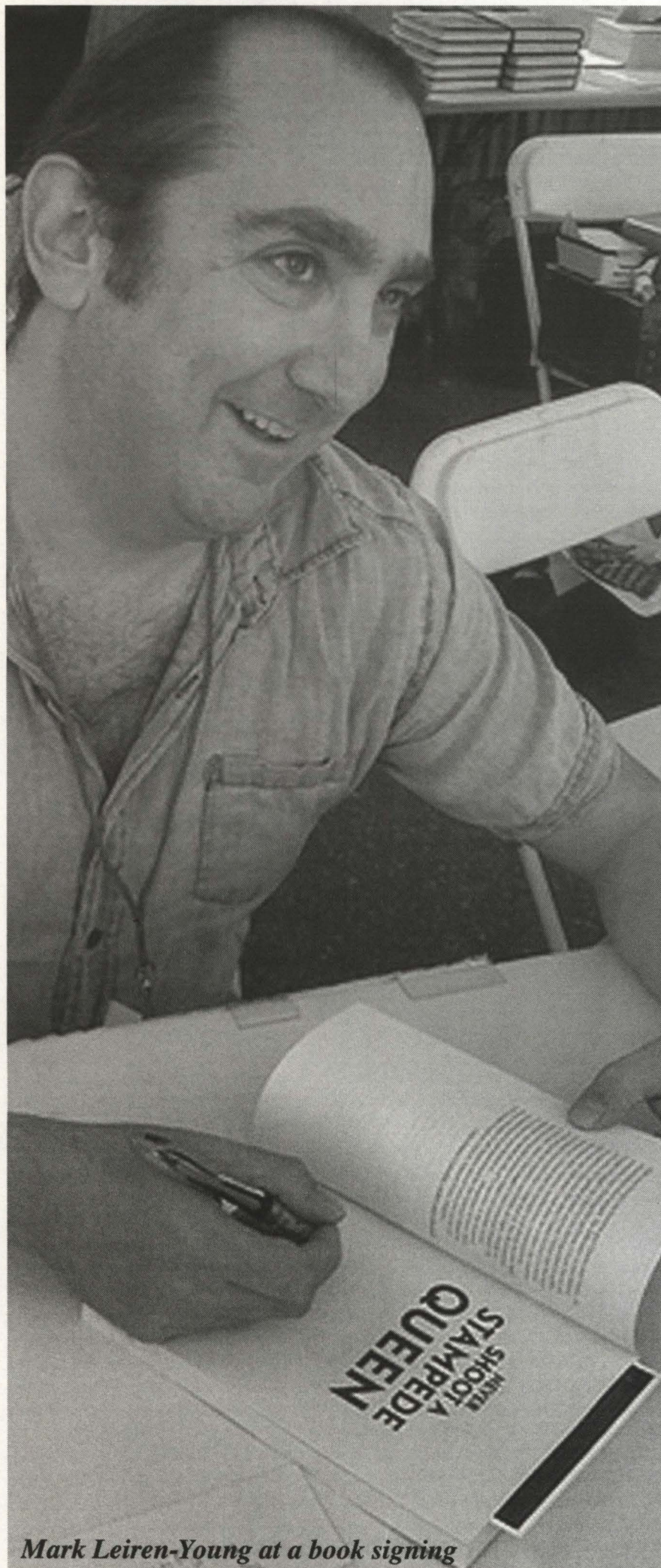
"[In reality], a different type of learning is just starting."





# B.C. journalist shares the stories behind his stories

By Sam VanSchie, CUP Western Bureau Chief



Mark Leiren-Young at a book signing

VICTORIA (CUP) – 22 years ago, Mark Leiren-Young got his first “real job” as a newspaper reporter.

After a summer interning at a major daily paper and a couple years writing for the University of British Columbia’s student newspaper, he headed into B.C.’s rugged interior to work at the *Williams Lake Tribune*, in a town with fewer people in it than the university he was used to.

Leiren-Young writes about his year writing for the *Tribune* in his first book, *Never Shoot a Stampede Queen*, which tells the stories behind the stories he wrote for the newspaper. The book serves as something of an explanation as to why journalists have so much fun.

“It’s an addictive profession, especially for a nosy guy like me,” Leiren-Young said, flashing his constant smile, his thinning long hair swaying as he talks.

He found trouble from the moment he entered Williams Lake. Arriving in the wee hours of the morning, he stopped to refuel his car and saw an armed robbery at the gas station, which became the first of many crime stories he’d write.

The logging town with a population of 10,000 has the highest crime rate in the province.

“Every reporter says they’re going to write a book like this, but nobody ever does,” Leiren-Young said.

He admits that, in interviews, he’s more comfortable asking the questions than answering them. But this isn’t the first time he’s promoted himself on a media circuit. In the years since the *Tribune*, Leiren-Young wrote plays, performed in a comedy duo, and wrote and directed the movie *The Green Chain*, between freelancing for newspapers.

The reason he time-warped back to his formative years for *Stampede Queen*?

“I showed the manuscript to a friend and he told me: ‘You have to publish it or you’re stupid,’” Leiren-Young said.

He originally wrote the collection of stories in 1988, but had no success publishing it. But with the critical distance 20 years brings, he was able to re-order and make slight revisions to the stories to make them flow as a book.

“I had to think of it not as a memoir, but as a story of a crazy town,” said Leiren-Young. “Just writing about me would have been too self-indulgent.”

The process of updating the stories threw Leiren-Young back to Williams Lake where some of the book’s characters still live (to protect their identity, names in the book were changed).

He re-read all his old articles and leafed through many of his old notepads,

which he had stored in boxes.

“The research was, in a sense, easy because this job creates such a paper trail, literally,” he said, admitting that some of the articles weren’t as great as he remembered them.

“I know I thought they were just the best at the time. That’s the thing about being a journalist, you really have to think you’re a God when you’re doing it or you’d never last on the job,” he said. “I remember times when I was 1,000 per cent sure I’d change the world through my writing.”

It’s clear from his book that Leiren-Young has no respect for authority; part of this is just his nature, he says, but he got away with it at the *Tribune* because he never intended to stay, so wasn’t looking to make friends.

“Every paper should hire somebody to come in for a year and get what nobody else wants to,” he said. “You see the city with new eyes, and notice stuff that everybody else is used to.”

And while the town was perhaps glad to see him go, when the book hit stores in September, it was perhaps most popular in Williams Lake. They sell it there as a supermarket book, next to the soft cover Steven King bestsellers.

“Everybody [in Williams Lake] has either read it or knows somebody who has read it,” he said, laughing about some of the phone calls he’s received from people who recognized themselves in the book.

“They’ve been so excited and supportive, it’s just amazing,” he said. “I thought they’d hate it.”



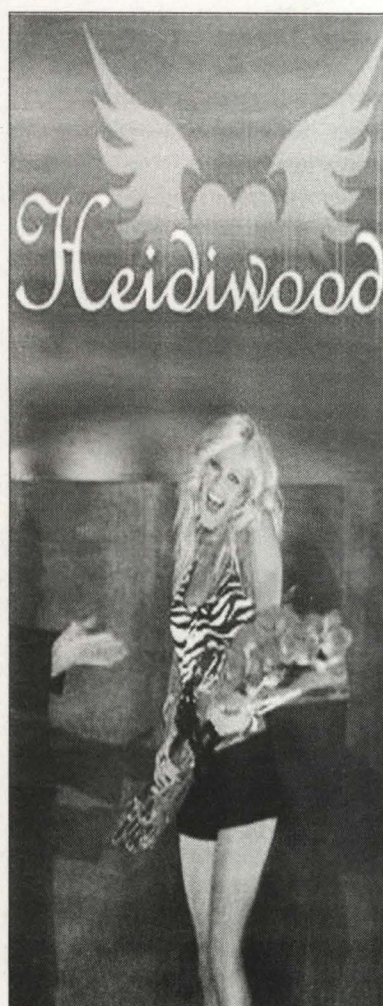
# POP CULTURE PURCHASES



**Died Young, Stayed Pretty**  
Eileen Yaghoobian

*Died Young, Stayed Pretty* is a must-see new and acclaimed documentary film by Eileen Yaghoobian, a Vancouver-based filmmaker. The film chronicles the development of the underground art of rock posters, predominantly in North America. Yaghoobian sits down for very candid discussions with these relatively unknown artists who print modern, pop-art concert posters for bands like The White Stripes, The Strokes, Pearl Jam and so forth, making a mere pittance for their relatively unappreciated artworks (concert posters are usually on sale for a whopping \$25–30). After viewing this movie, I have a greater understanding of this subculture and where it stems from. Anyone interested in art and music alike would thoroughly enjoy this refreshing film. To learn more visit [diedyoungstayedpretty.com](http://diedyoungstayedpretty.com).

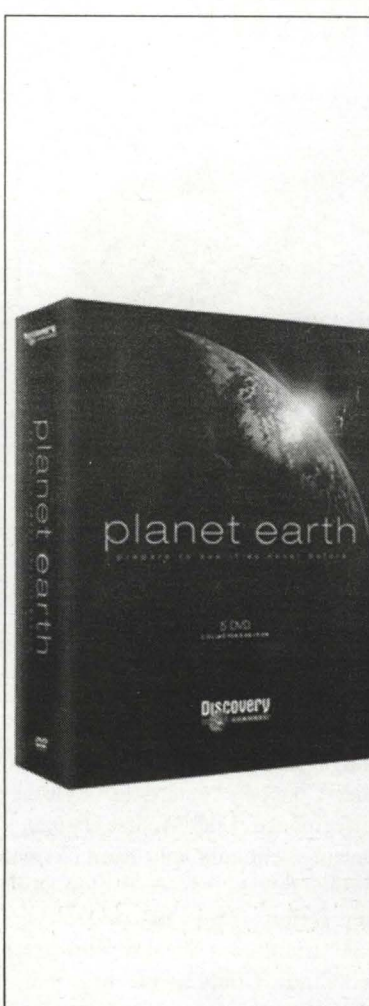
—Chloé Bach



**Heidiwood**  
Heidi Montag

Let's admit it, we have all watched reality show *The Hills* at some point or another. If you look at the gossip magazines at the grocery store, we all know who Heidi Montag is (and that terrible now-husband of hers, Spencer Pratt), but what you may not know is that she has launched a new clothing collection called Heidiwood by Anchor Blue. The line ranges from trash to more trash, all inspired by Heidi's very own style! It's all very Forever 21... not that that's a bad thing; it's just not really a good thing. Sequined zebra print tops and cheap cotton are the name of the game in this case. The only upside to this collection is Heidiwood clothing is exactly as cheap as it looks!

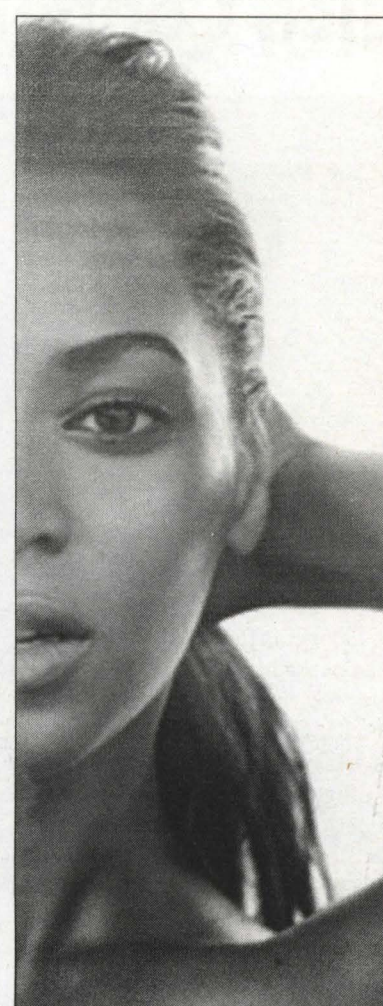
—Chloé Bach



**Planet Earth**  
BBC DVD

For Christmas I got pretty much the best gift ever, a five-DVD collection from BBC entitled *Planet Earth*. *Planet Earth* showcases over 200 hours of the world's most striking scenery including footage from the earth's oceans, arctic, and mountain landscapes as well as caves and wildlife. The DVD boasts it "will take you to the last wildernesses and show you the planet and its wildlife as you have never seen them before," and they are not kidding! A team of over 150 cinematographers spent just over four years putting this collection together, and the time spent was definitely worth it. While the commentary from Lord David Attenborough can be a little overdone at times, the camera work is exquisite, as are the special features, and I would definitely recommend this DVD set to just about anyone and everyone. It is especially great to have in the background at parties or while company is over as it is a for sure conversation starter and cinematic masterpiece!

—Ashley Whillans



**I Am... Sasha Fierce**  
Beyoncé

You know what I really love about Beyoncé? Besides her booty? (Goddamn!) It's her attitude. All of her songs have a lot of edge to them. Name any other female pop star—I'm thinking Mariah, Rihanna, Britney, Shakira, or even Pink—and Beyoncé makes their songs look tame by comparison. Hell, she puts most rock bands to shame with this album's lead single, "Single Ladies (Put a Ring On It)," which *Rolling Stone* recently deemed the #1 song of 2008. Every song on this album is a creative stand out, from the gender-bending "If I Were a Boy" to the explicit "Videophone." What makes *I Am... Sasha Fierce* Beyoncé's most interesting album yet is how it explores where her attitude comes from. Sasha Fierce is an alter-ego that Beyoncé has, kind of like how Princess Adora transforms into She-Ra. This double album is split in two halves, one for bootylicious Beyoncé and one for super-sexy Sasha. How can anyone say no to that?

—Mark Fisher

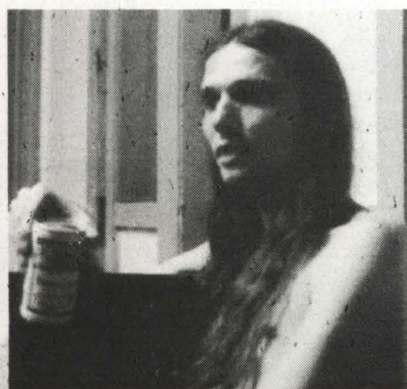


## Whatever Happened to the Alice Cooper band?



### Alice Cooper

Alice Cooper is the well-known front man from the band Alice Cooper known best for wearing lots of black eye make-up and dancing on stage with a snake. The rock-and-roller is now 60 years old and still going strong. Cooper has still been performing and has even released a new album called *Along Came A Spider* in July of 2008. In the last few years he has had many achievements including receiving a Rock Immortal Award, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and a Living Legend Award. Cooper is currently working on his own radio show, which began airing in 2004 called *Nights with Alice Cooper*.



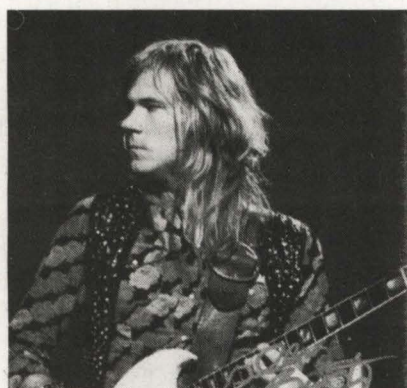
### Dennis Dunaway

Dennis Dunaway was the bass guitarist for the Alice Cooper band and was noted for his Latin and jazz-type sound and influence and so is often credited with creating a sound that really contributed to Alice Cooper's "theatrical" style of performance. Like Michael Bruce, Dunaway eventually split from Cooper and joined the short-lived Billion Dollar Babies. Dennis is now married to the original drummer's (Neal Smith) sister named Cindy. Cindy and Dennis met when she was hired as the seamstress to make the band's stage clothes. The couple has two daughters together, the oldest of which fronts a band called Jetsetter.



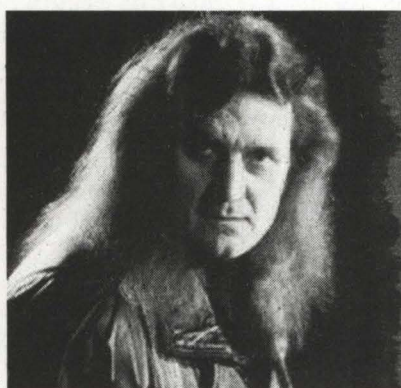
### Neal Smith

Neal Smith was the drummer of the group, known for always having one more drum in his set than the drummer from The Who, Keith Moon, which was mostly for bragging rights. Like his fellow band members, Smith left Alice Cooper for the Billion Dollar Babies and their flunk of an album. These days, Smith is still quite active in the music scene, performing live with Cooper and working on solo material. Smith is also currently a band member of Bouchard, Dunaway & Smith (aka BSD) and has lent his talent to former band mates and friends in the business for several different musical compilations.



### Glen Edward Buxton

Buxton was the lead guitarist for the original Alice Cooper band. Before his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, Buxton took the opportunity to spend some time with his band mates before he unexpectedly passed away to due complications from pneumonia at 49 years of age. He was not forgotten though, because in 2003 Rolling Stone named him one of the "100 greatest guitarists of all time." So, although he passed on in 1997, it is clear that he was legendary enough to be recognized as a great talent even several years later.

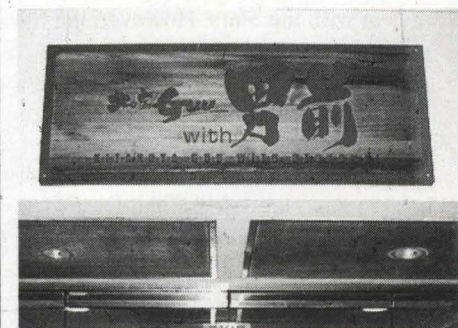


### Mike Bruce

Mike Bruce was a guitarist, keyboardist and vocalist in the original Alice Cooper band. However, Bruce split from the group to found his own group called Billion Dollar Babies only to be entangled in a lawsuit over the name of this new band that split after the release of their first album. Bruce released some solo albums and a live CD called *Halo of Ice*—both of which were only mildly successful. Now, though, he has founded his own band called The Michael Bruce Group who he tours with to this day and even performs a few classic Alice Cooper songs.

## Fork This Guu Izakaya

By Chloé Bach



Guu Izakaya is a small chain of four Japanese pubs (Japanese pub is what Izakaya means) located throughout Vancouver and area all specializing in small plates of tapas style foods accompanied by very affordable drinks. And if you haven't been, you are seriously missing out.

The restaurants are small, cozy and extremely popular, so by the time they open the doors at 5:30 p.m. the place is almost packed and almost indefinitely lined up by six. So, getting there early is a good bet (and what I usually do) if you want to avoid the wait. Inside, the atmosphere is loud and rambunctious; the servers scream your orders to the kitchen in Japanese as you order each dish and you are enthusiastically greeted upon arrival and departure—by which I mean more yelling.

The food is exceptional. Beyond exceptional actually. The dishes are the perfect size for sharing between two to four people. The flavours are unique to each dish, be it baked black cod with a miso butter sauce, beef carpaccio with wasabi mayo or deep fried shrimp with spicy chili mayo and so forth; pretty much each dish is a treat for the taste buds. That said, though, their menu is constantly changing and making new additions, which is perfect because it will give you a good reason to go back again!

To compliment your delicious meal is a range of different sake's and rice wines. My personal favourite is their house draft sake; it's only \$7 for a large order and is also really quite good for house sake. If these traditional drinks don't pique your interest, don't fret; they have a great selection of Asian beers to boot (among others).

If you are looking for a fun night out with friends, delicious food and tasty drinks, Guu is top shelf in my books any day. I give Guu 4/4 forks. It's that good.

There are Guu locations on Robson, Thurlow, in Gastown and in Richmond. For more information, check out [guu-izakaya.com](http://guu-izakaya.com).



# Avery's star burns out

By Garth McLennan, Sports Editor

Well, it finally happened. After years of attention-seeking crap, 27-year-old super pest Sean Avery has been released from his contract by the Dallas Stars, and it looks like his NHL days could be done—at least for the foreseeable future.

This past summer, Avery signed a four-year, \$15.5 million deal with the Stars. However, the folks in Big D quickly got tired of his act, and with the team nearing the basement of the league's standings, what happened recently was the tipping point.

Before a game against the Calgary Flames, Avery, who has never met a microphone he didn't like, began needling Flames' star defenseman Dion Phaneuf. Phaneuf is currently dating actress Elisha Cuthbert, a starlet that Avery had also previously been involved with. So, in his own classy way, Avery announced, "I just want to comment on one, how it has become a common thing in the NHL for guys to fall in love with my sloppy seconds. I don't know what that's about, but enjoy the game."

Well, it turns out, and this is just out of nowhere, that Avery isn't the NHL's golden boy and league commissioner Gary Bettman was a little upset over Avery's comments. Citing numerous incidents, including one at the beginning of the year where Avery criticized the NHL's marketing strategies by insulting Flames' captain and all-around great guy Jarome Iginla, Bettman suspended Avery indefinitely for his remarks and later reduced the suspension to six games. Dallas moved fast, and released Avery from

the organization after only 23 games.

Now, that would seem a little harsh, but this isn't the first, second or third time Avery has embarrassed the game with his incredible need for the cameras to be on him. This is the straw that broke the camel's back. Throughout the past few years, controversy has perennially surrounded the summer *Vogue* intern like a sickness.

When the NHL decided to get tough on diving, Avery was the poster boy for that form of cowardice. After being fined one thousand dollars for repeated diving, Avery then went to the media and whined about how it wasn't fair. Bang, another \$1000 fine.

When Avery was playing for the Los Angeles Kings, Denis Gautier, a French-Canadian defenseman, cross-checked King Jeremy Roenick in a move that left Roenick with a concussion. Avery then went to the press and said, "I think it was typical of most French guys in our league with a visor on, running around and playing tough and not back anything up."

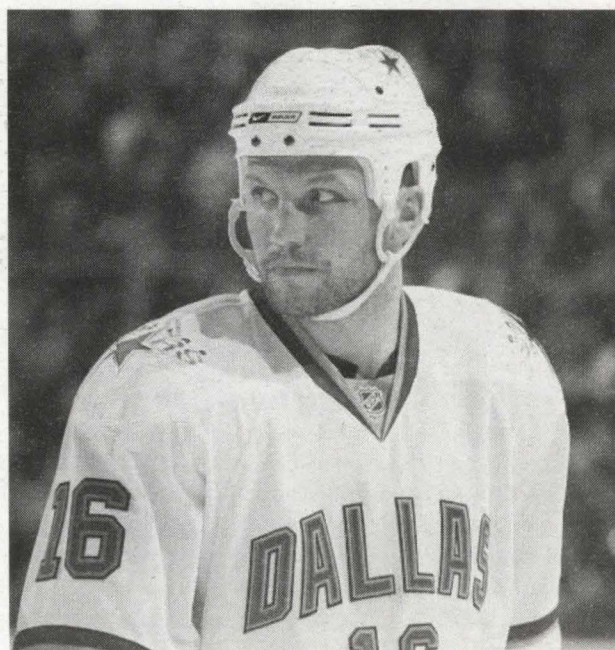
Interesting comment considering that Avery is infamous for doling out cheap shots and then refusing to fight. Needless to say, a few people (namely, all of Quebec) weren't pleased with Avery's views.

Later that year, in a game against the Edmonton Oilers, Avery sent Georges Laraque into a rage after calling him a monkey several times. Laraque is African-American. The sewage continued to pour from his mouth while he was with the New York Rangers. During a break in a game against the Toronto Maple Leafs, Avery made fun of Leafs' forward Jason

Blake for having cancer. After the game, even his own teammates trashed Avery in the media.

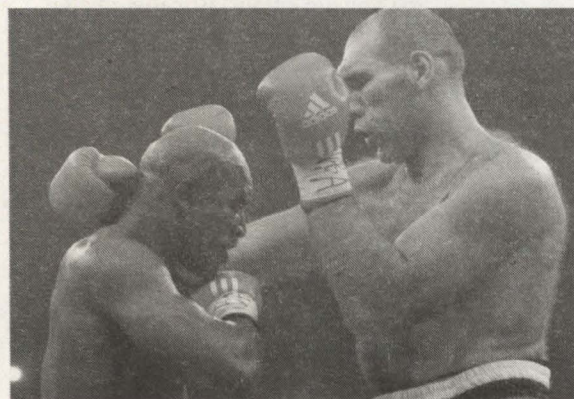
There have been many, many more incidents, but if I were to list them all I'd probably have to go into the A&E section of the paper. It looks like things are finally starting to catch up to Avery after years of leeching off of the game and feeding his own maniacal ego.

Merry Christmas Sean, you got what you deserved.



# Boxing still has life left

By Garth McLennan, Sports Editor



With the rise of mixed martial arts, the popularity of boxing has plummeted.

Now, many of boxing's numerous problems are of their own making. Poor marketing of fighters, charging exuberant pay-per-view rates for any meaningful bout, over 85 championship belts and a host of other factors have all contributed to the decline of the sport.

But don't count boxing out just yet. While there are few, if any, true main event fighters such as Mike Tyson or Muhammad Ali on the current boxing scene, there are still a number of big name warriors that the casual fan can get behind.

Over the recent Christmas season, several prime time fights took place, almost all of them involving the major world championships at varying weight classes. In the heavyweight division, the immortal Evander Holyfield unsuccessfully attempted to win his fifth world heavyweight championship when he went toe-to-toe with the monstrous Nikolai Valuev.

Despite being 46 years of age, Holyfield entered the fight in phenomenal shape, and he came out with the heart of a lion against the seven-foot, 310 pound Valuev. Holyfield gave up an incredible 11 inches and 86 pounds and many boxing experts believe that Holyfield won the fight. The judges awarded the victory to Valuev in a split decision that has been hotly contested and has already sparked rumors of a rematch.

While he is miles past his prime where he could call himself one of the best ever, Holyfield has refused to retire until he completes his quest of winning a fifth world title, something that has never been done before. You have to admire the man's heart.

The rest of the heavyweight circle is dominated by one family name: Klitschko. Vitali Klitschko hung up the gloves in 2005, but made his return in October of 2008 at 37 years old when he regained the WBO title that he never lost from Samuel Peter. He beat Peter soundly for winning by retirement in the eighth round.

While his older brother has been away, 6'5 Wladimir Klitschko, 32, has owned the division. He has accumulated the IBF, WBO and IBO heavyweight crowns and in mid-December destroyed challenger Hasim Rahman, eventually winning by TKO. Unfortunately for boxing, the Klitschko's have vowed never to fight each other. It's a shame, really, because both are superb and there has been great debate as to who is really the best in the business. Plus, it would be a relief to see a true undisputed heavyweight champion again.

The heavyweights aren't the only good game in town though. Fading 43-year-old legend Bernard

Hopkins defeated Kelly Pavlik in October, while in November, one of the greatest and most unheralded boxing careers may have come to a close. The undefeated, 46-0 Welshman Joe Calzaghe, 36, defended his *Ring* light-heavyweight title against former fighter of the decade Roy Jones Jr. Calzaghe who has fought mostly in Europe, which is a big reason for his lack of North American attention. However, he's a true class act and boxing would be worse off without him. He's held the WBO super-middleweight title since 1997 and is currently deciding whether or not to call it quits.

The highest profile fight over the last while was the highly anticipated *Dream Match* between Oscar De La Hoya and Manny Pacquiao in December. The gate revenue was the second highest in boxing history and millions saw Pacquiao, who *Ring Magazine* ranked the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world TKO the clearly over-the-hill De La Hoya, who has held over 10 world titles in a number of weight classes and is one of the most well-known boxers in the world.

So there are still plenty of terrific fighters out there and tons of great action to catch. There are very few sporting events that can compare to a super-charged world title fight, and that's something that MMA can't live up to. Boxing isn't dead; you just have to look a little harder to find the greatness in it.



## Burke takes the helm

By Garth McLennan, Sports Editor



Well, it finally happened, just like we all knew it would. Brian Burke has left his post as the general manager of the Anaheim Ducks to take the helm of one of sport's biggest messes, the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Burke recently signed a massive (by managerial standards anyway) six-year contract that will pay him \$3 million per year. Burke replaces caretaker Cliff Fletcher as GM and without a doubt, he has quite the task in front of him. With the way the Leafs are looking these days, if Burke can transform them into Stanley Cup contenders, then he should set his sights on bigger problems; fixing the economy comes to mind.

The fact is, leading the Leafs is going to be the hardest job of Burke's career. To say that Toronto is in disarray is like saying that Sean Avery is a little outspoken. Burke has inherited the colossal management errors of previous GM John Ferguson Jr. Burke finds himself with a team stocked full of underachieving, overpaid veteran players and practically empty of any outstanding prospects, with the exception of 2008 fifth overall draft pick Luke Schenn. Also, he's locked into a hockey mad town that expects him to put Jesus to shame in the saving people department. The fact is though, no matter how good Burke is, he won't be able to turn four million dollar per year blunder Jason Blake into a legitimate goal scorer worth even half of his salary.

In order for Burke to succeed in the most conceited part of Canada, it's going to take time, and time in Toronto isn't a luxury most hockey people have. After the year or two honeymoon period, and the Leafs still aren't winning, what will the currently warm public perception of Burke become? After all, history has shown that when the Leafs aren't a Cup contender, which they haven't been for, oh, 41 years now, the average fan becomes about as friendly and forgiving as most Insite users.

The problems with the Leafs are almost as extensive as those in Iraq. For still unknown reasons, Ferguson decided to open the vault and dole out the millions to a list of players that would be in tough to make the second line of most good teams. Five years and \$20 million for Blake? Now, I might be wrong, but paying a guy who scored 15 goals \$5 million last year seems just a tad excessive. Now, he was coming off a 40-goal campaign with the Islanders the year before, but before that, his career high in goals was 28 and he was 33 years old when he signed the deal. Now, they're stuck with him until 2012 because not even God could find a way to trade him.

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With Mats Sundin gone, Toronto has zero firepower up front and with just a quick glance at the "up-and-comers" it looks like things will remain the same for quite some time. On defense, Fletcher was able to rid the team of Bryan McCabe's albatross five-year salary that last year reached an astronomical \$7.1 million. McCabe's disastrous play and atrocious plus/minus rating became a focal point for Toronto's ineptitude and McCabe was often booed off the ice. Giving Pavel Kubina five million dollars per year for four seasons wasn't the most well thought out plan either. Then just this past summer, in a desperate bid to maintain the illusion and ownership's message that "this is the year...really!" to their fans, Fletcher triumphantly proclaimed that he had signed Colorado's fourth best defenseman, Jeff Finger, to a four-year, \$14 million deal and that things were looking up. Right.

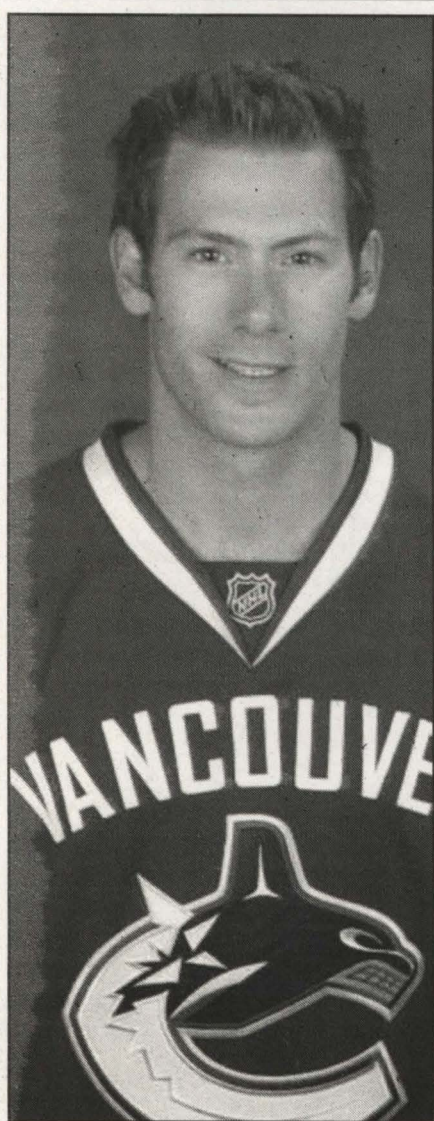
The situation in goal has gone about as well as Stéphane Dion's attempts to convince us that he really is the best man to lead the country. The Leafs dealt top-flight goalie prospect, Tukka Rask, to the Boston Bruins in exchange for goaltender Andrew Raycroft, who lasted two years in Toronto before leaving with a GAA of 3.92. Raycroft now sits on the bench in Colorado. Ferguson then went out and got Vesa Toskala from the San Jose Sharks. Toskala had a decent run and Ferguson went into another spending spree, showering the since-average goalie with \$4 million until 2010.

So, Burke has quiet the uphill climb in front of him. It's more like scaling Everest actually... with one arm... blindfolded. With a Stanley Cup from 2007 on his resume and an impressive record of rebuilding the Ducks and Vancouver Canucks, it's easy to see why victory-starved Toronto fans already have expectations not based anywhere near reality. It's also easy to see that after years of shooting themselves in the foot, Burke is walking into a situation that may cause him to crack. Good luck to him, he's going to need it.



## Where are they now

By Garth McLennan, Sports Editor

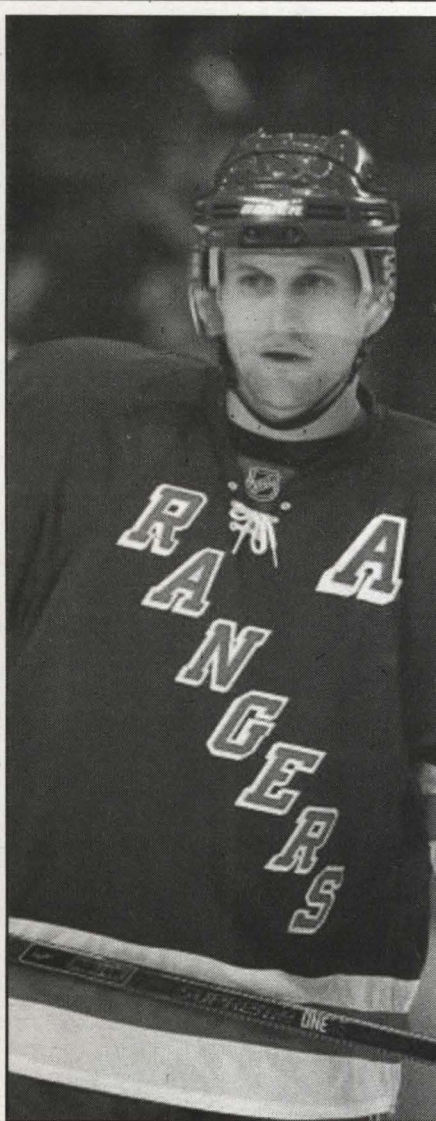


### Brendan Morrison

Of the three West Coast Express members that have now parted ways with Vancouver, Morrison has tanked the most quickly. Sure, Bertuzzi may be killing himself slowly, but Morrison's downward production spiral has been incredible, and not in a good way. While it was blatantly obvious that Morrison was no where near the same level of player that Naslund or Bertuzzi was when the line was in full swing, since he's joined the Anaheim Ducks, he's been invisible.

In 35 contests, he's netted just eight goals, and has only put up four assists for a grand total of 12 points. Not great for a guy getting paid \$2.4-million on a one-year contract. Due to his horrifically poor play and near non-existent point totals, Morrison has found himself with increasingly decreased ice time, and has even been a healthy scratch.

While it might be possible to attribute some of his on-ice troubles to lingering complications from his ACL injury last year, his surgery was nine months ago, and he needs to stop using that as a crutch.

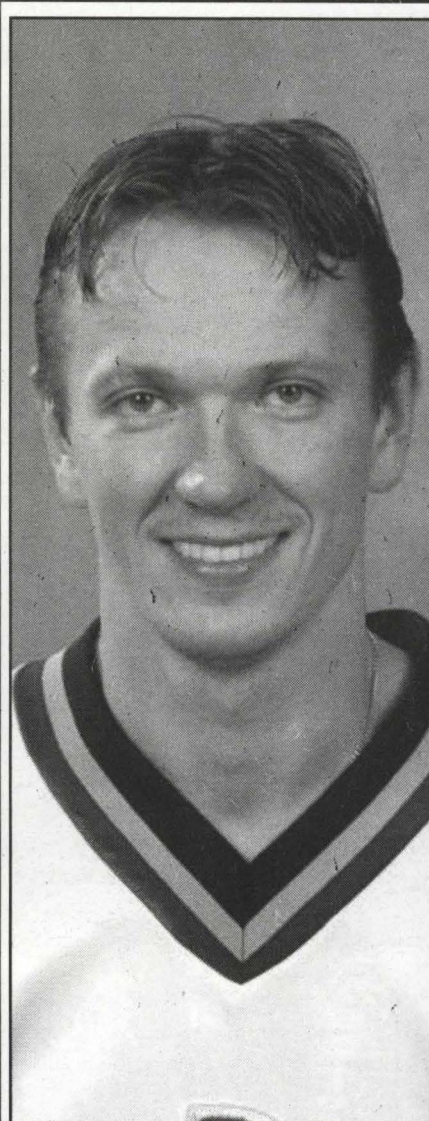


### Markus Naslund

After being a member of the Vancouver Canucks' organization for 13 years, eight of them as captain, Swedish left-winger Markus Naslund, 35, departed Vancouver for Broadway and signed a two-year, \$8 million deal with the New York Rangers this past summer.

Since then, Naslund has enjoyed playing in an offense-first system that puts a heavy emphasis on puck possession and has a legitimate shot at winning the Stanley Cup this year. Naslund and the Rangers began the season in the Czech Republic, where the all-time Canucks' leading scorer notched the first goal of the 2008-09 season.

Since then, Naslund has played a solid game with New York. In 38 games so far this season, Naslund has scored 13 times while assisting on 13 other goals for 26 points. He has stated several times since his arrival on the East Coast that he is enjoying the relative anonymity that comes with being a Ranger and not being the focus of his team's offence.



### Peter Skudra

Goaltender Peter Skudra served as one of the Vancouver Canucks' many backup goaltenders during the tumultuous time in net when Marc Crawford coached the team. Despite solid, if not spectacular play during one of starting goalie, Dan Cloutier's many injuries, Skudra battled with Crawford and soon found himself relegated to the press box late in the 2002-03 campaign.

Crawford and team management were intent on developing "goalie-of-the-future" Alex Auld, and Skudra became the odd man out when Cloutier returned to the pipes. While Skudra wasn't outstanding for Vancouver, he did a good job and was a fantastic guy with fans. As for Auld, most goalies of the future need to be able to have a glove hand better than a 12-year-old, and he was dealt away to Florida.

Vancouver was Skudra's last NHL stop. He left for the Russian Elite League where he played six seasons before hanging up the pads in 2007.



### Todd Bertuzzi

Since the infamous Steve Moore incident in March of 2004, Bertuzzi's career has deteriorated at a rapid pace. In the summer, he inked a one-year pact with the Calgary Flames after being bought out and released by the Anaheim Ducks. Calgary is Bertuzzi's fifth team in three and a half years and after a fast start to the season, his play has once again settled a below average rate.

Despite ample amounts of playing time with one of hockey's true superstars, Jarome Iginla, Bertuzzi has failed to produce at a regular clip. In 35 games he has recorded 25 points, but just nine goals. He just recently came out of a prolonged 19 game scoring slump.

Bertuzzi has more often than not displayed a lack of effort and drive on the ice over the last few years, but when he turns it on, he's something to see. For example, when he broke his goal drought against the Minnesota Wild, he scored a breakaway goal in overtime. With a Wild player draped over his back, he made several deft dekes and put the puck in the top corner.





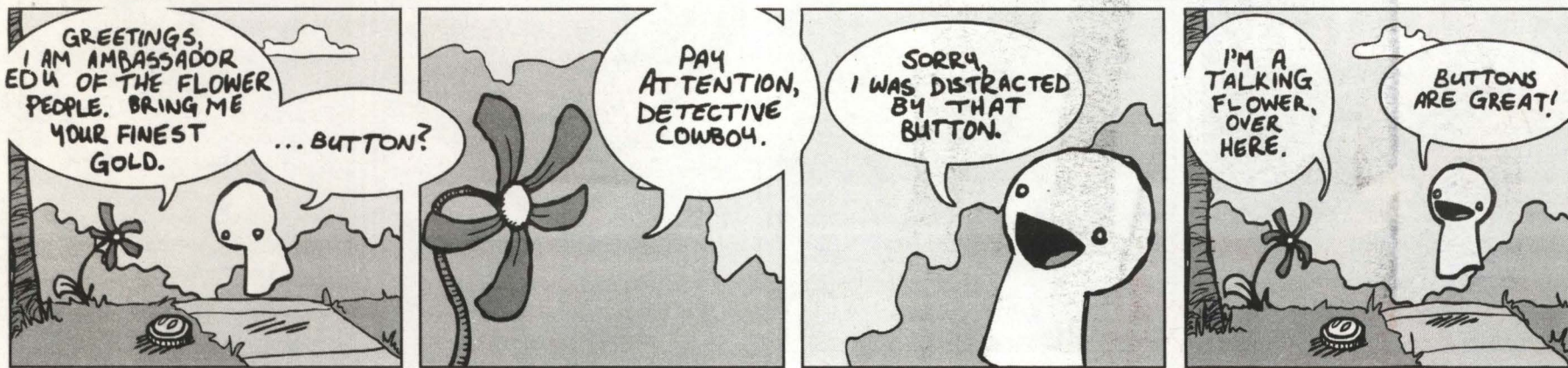
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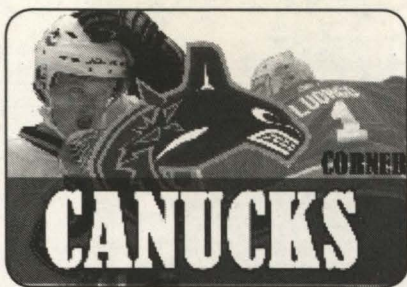
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## Sundin signs!



**T**he six-month Mats Sundin saga has finally concluded with the Swedish superstar agreeing to a one-year contract with the Vancouver Canucks.

To say that the process of signing Sundin was a marathon would be an understatement. Vancouver's general manager, Mike Gillis, banked his entire summer on brokering a deal with the longest serving European captain in NHL history and for a long time, nobody expected Sundin to join the Canucks. However, unlike many GMs around the league, Gillis was persistent and never retracted or altered the standing two-year, \$10 million offer that he tendered to Sundin and his agent, J.P. Barry, on July 1<sup>st</sup>, the opening day of free agency.

As many as 11 different clubs were said to be interested in Sundin and Vancouver, Montreal, Chicago and the New York Rangers all made offers. However, none could match Gillis' and really, it's a perfect fit for all involved. When you think about it, it may have been excruciatingly painful waiting for Sundin to make up his mind, but the fact that he took so long actually works in Vancouver's favour.

Sundin, at 37, has now had upwards of eight months off to recharge his batteries. While Vancouver had over \$10 million in cap space to work with, Sundin accepted a deal for less money, which works out to \$8.6 million for the full season (he actually makes about \$6 million). This is huge for the Canucks as they still have more than \$2.5 million in salary cap room and can add another quality player later on in the season.

Then there is the fact that all Vancouver had to surrender for Sundin's services is money. They didn't have to give up high draft picks or good prospects and they had more than enough cap room to accommodate Sundin. In the end, the only two teams remaining in the race were Vancouver and New York, but it was clear from the get-go that the Rangers wouldn't win the Sundin sweepstakes. They had just \$1 million in cap room and would have had to trade or waive several players, which can wreak havoc on team chemistry.

The Canucks now vault themselves into legitimate contender status with Sundin's arrival. While it is true that he may not be in mid-season form straight away, all sources have said that he's been training like a demon to get into shape and he's ready to go. What skeptics need to remember is that this is Mats Sundin we're talking about here. This is a guy that has been about the only bright light in Toronto for years. He's the Maple Leafs' all time leading goals and points leader and at 6'5, 231 pounds, he gives the Canucks what they've been seeking for years: a true powerhouse center.

Sundin, who has played in nine NHL all-star games, will provide a huge boost to the Canucks even if he never records a point. With Sundin and presumably Kyle Wellwood or Pavol Demitra on one line, and the Sedin twins with Demitra or Hansen on another, Vancouver now has something they haven't had for a very long time: two real scoring lines. Now, opposing teams will be sending out their best defenders to stop Sundin, which means that the Sedin twins will be playing against other teams' third and fourth best defensive players. Watch for their offensive production to spike.

In 17 NHL seasons, Sundin has been a point-per-game player almost every single year. He has 555 goals, 766 assists and 1321 points in 1305 games and is the first Swedish player to score 500 goals and the only Swede to reach the 1000-point milestone. He also knows pressure; being the captain and best player on often-dismal Toronto Maple Leafs' teams isn't easy.

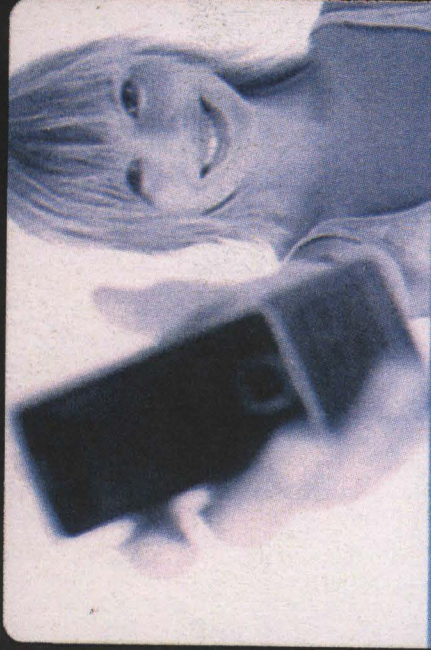
Sundin also has a connection to Vancouver. One of the team's best defensemen, Matthias Ohlund, has suited up alongside Sundin in numerous international competitions for Sweden, including the 2006 gold medal winning squad at the Turin Winter Olympics, a team that Sundin captained. In fact, Sundin called Ohlund up to get his take on the team before signing.

So, overall this is a tremendous boost to a team that needed that x-factor to get them over the hump. They may not be Detroit or San Jose just yet, but with this signing, the Vancouver Canucks can now expect to beat any team in the NHL.



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